

# STANDISH MONUMENT

## THE STANDISH MONUMENT.

**The Liquor Question the Cause of Disaffection and Stoppage of the Work.**

It turns out that the liquor question is at the bottom of the difficulty over the monument at Duxbury. Five men, long-continued friends, and mostly members of Tremont Lodge, I. O. F., conceived the idea of a monument to Standish, and contributed the first \$25,000 to the association which raised the monument, 73 feet in height, 18 years ago, under the superintendence of Hon. Stephen M. Allen and Nathaniel Adams, with other members of Tremont Lodge. General H. B. Sargent was president and gave \$1000 for the Grand Army of the Republic and some \$3000 or \$4000 for himself. The grounds owned by Mr. Allen were given by him on the implied condition that liquor should not be sold or drank upon the premises. He built the wharf which was to be a free landing for excursions and a resort for benevolent societies, and contributed some \$3000 or \$4000 beside.

The losses by the great fire in Boston suspended the work for many years and when it was resumed by Mr. Allen three years since, for the purpose of adding the additional 23 feet through subscriptions of his friends and a grant from the state, it was upon condition that he should personally guarantee the finishing of the monument. The late L. Myles Standish was chairman of the executive committee, and was to furnish \$1000 of this money and pass upon the work. Mr. Allen agreed to this proposition and through the assistance of General Butler and other friends, completed the work and paid for the statue in addition. Mr. Standish died just as the work was commenced and Mr. Allen had the whole responsibility.

A man who had been recommended to Mr. Standish as used to working at giddy heights proved to be a drinker of intoxicating liquors, as also some of the men he recommended for the work, which finally caused great trouble by neglect and strikes. Mr. Allen, on visiting the work almost daily, saw that some of the men working on the top of the monument were often in a condition that not only endangered their lives, but others working with them, those who did not drink. He forbade liquor to be taken up on the monument. Soon he discovered that they had a bottle secreted in the bushes below, and discharged some of the men, who were in the habit of resorting to the bottle.

This made a strike on the works, in which the liquor drinkers of the town, but who had never contributed a cent for the monument, sympathized. Two prominent liquor sellers led off with the proposition to turn out the managing officers of the association who had furnished the money and had completed the monument and elect their own crowd. Not succeeding at the regular annual meeting they called another through a justice of the peace, and pretended to elect a new board, although the regular board was, as they had always been, in office with no dissensions. General Sargent, General Chamberlain, General Butler and Mr. Allen and other prominent managers from the beginning were left out.

These men went to collecting money and were the cause of the pending bill in equity to restrain them. Of the 13 voters at their bogus meeting, 10 had never given a dollar towards building the monument. Mr. Allen felt that he must protect the distinguished men who had loaned their name for 20 years to the enterprise, and did so firmly. One of the devices of the liquor men when the sheriff was round, was to break into the rotunda of the monument and move their liquors for storage until their own premises had been searched. Thus the rum question has prevented the finishing of the laying out the ground around the monument, although some \$1500 has been subscribed for the purpose. TRUTH.